

HOUSE BILL 1681
By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, to provide for the issuance of special license plates to emphasize the preservation of children and families in Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(3), is amended by adding a new item thereto, as follows:

() Child and family preservation;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203, is amended by adding a new item thereto, as follows:

() Child and family preservation - twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the state of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in Section 55-4-203, shall be issued a child and family preservation special license plate, either for an automobile, recreational vehicle, or a truck of one-half (1/2) or three-quarter (3/4) ton rating.

(b) The special plates provided for in this section shall be issued in conformity with the provisions of Section 55-4-202, shall bear the language "Child and Family

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Preservation”, and shall be designed in consultation with Child and Family Services of Knox County, Inc. and the department of safety. The special plates shall include a unique identifying number, whereby the total characters do not exceed the sum of seven (7); provided, that no two (2) recipients shall receive identical plates.

(c)

(1) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to mean that any eligible person shall be prevented from exchanging a regular type plate for one (1) of special design; provided, that the fees prescribed under Section 55-4-203 are paid.

(2) The whole or parts of the fee for a special registration plate shall not be refunded for the exchange of a regular plate.

(d) Additional special license plates may be obtained by any eligible person upon payment of the regular license fee for plates, as prescribed under Section 55-4-111, plus the payment of the fee prescribed in Section 55-4-203.

(e)

(1) Special license plates issued pursuant to this section may be transferred to another vehicle of the same weight class owned or leased by the same person upon proper application being made therefor and approved by the department of safety.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to whom such plates have been issued to knowingly permit them to be displayed on any vehicle, except such as authorized by the department.

(f)

(1) The funds derived from the sale of the child and family preservation special license plates, less the expense the state has incurred in designing and manufacturing such plates, shall be deposited in a special fund in the general

fund to be used exclusively to support mental health and social service programs for children and families administered or approved by Child and Family Services of Knox County, Inc.. The commissioner of health shall make grants to Child and Family Services of Knox County, Inc. for such programs and services from moneys available in the special fund.

(2) There is hereby established a general fund reserve to be allocated by the general appropriations act which shall be known as the child and family preservation endowment fund. Moneys from the fund may be expended to fund activities authorized by this section. Any revenues deposited in this reserve shall remain in the reserve until expended for purposes consistent with this subsection, and shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30. Any excess revenues or interest earned by such revenues shall not revert on any June 30, but shall remain available for appropriation in subsequent fiscal years. Any appropriation from such reserve shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30, but shall remain available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, for the first fiscal year in which such license plates are issued and after deducting the expense the state has incurred in designing and manufacturing such plates, funds derived from the sale of such license plates of the first one thousand (1000) such plates pursuant to this section shall be distributed to the general fund and funds derived from the sale of such license plates in excess of one thousand (1000) shall be distributed as otherwise provided in this section. For succeeding fiscal years, all funds derived from the renewal of the plates described in this section or from any new issues of such plates, less any expense the state has incurred in designing and manufacturing such plates, shall be distributed as earmarked in this section with no further payments going to the general fund from such plates.

(g) The department shall not implement the provisions of this section unless at least one hundred (100) registration plates are ordered pursuant to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.